

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ORM-02
DHA-02 AID-05 /084 W
-----091534Z 002642 /53

O R 091435Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5845
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
INFO USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1619

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

OTTAWA FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS FOR FRANCIS, U.N. OPERATIONS
DIVISION

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SREF, ZA, WA
SUBJ: NAMIBIA: CONDITION OF SWAPO DISSIDENTS IN ZAMBIA

ACTION ADDRESSEES ARE ASKED TO PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE
FROM THE CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION LUSAKA TO CANADIAN MISSIONS
AND MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS:

QUOTE:

REF: OURTELS 0917 JUN8, 0922 JUN9

SUB/SUJ: NAMIBIA: CONDITION OF SWAPO DISSIDENTS IN ZAMBIA
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IN APPARENT ANTICIPATION THAT ATTN WOULD BE FOCUSED ON SWAPO
DISSIDENTS IN ZAMBIA AS RESULT OF CPTWN TALKS, ZAMBIAN GOVT
HAS ACTED QUICKLY TO DEAL WITH LARGE GROUP OF SWAPO DISSIDENTS
DETAINED FOR LAST YEAR OR SO AT MBROMA CAMP NEAR KABWE.
FOLLOWING IS REPORT BASED ON OUR DISCUSSION JUNS WITH UNHCR
REP OPDAHL IN LSAKA. IN MAY20 MTG, MIN OF HOME AFFAIRS,
MILNER, HAD INDICATED TO OPDAHL THAT BURDEN ON ZAMBIAN

GOVT OF TAKING CARE OF SWAPO DETAINEES WAS BECOMING TOO HEAVY AND THAT HE PLANNED TO DECLARE THEM AS REFUGEES AND ASK FOR UNHCR ASSISTANCE. AT TIME HE SPOKE OF ALL 800 PLUS DETAINEES AND INDICATED THAT THEY WOULD HAVE TO BE KEPT AT THEIR LOCATION AT THE MBROMA CAMP, RATHER THAN FOR EXAMPLE BEING MOVED TO UNHCR SETTLEMENT AT MEHEBA IN NORTH. SUBSEQUENTLY, HOWEVER, SITUATION DEVELOPED AS FOLLOWS: SOME 200 OF DETAINEES HAVE NOW BEEN DECLARED QUOTE REFUGEES UNQUOTE AND HAVE BEEN TRANSFERRED TO MEHEBA FOR RESETTLEMENT. ARRANGEMENTS FOR TRANSFER HAVE BEEN UNDERTAKEN BY OFFICE OF REFUGEE COMMISSIONER (WHO IS NOW ZIMBA FORMER DEPUTY REP AT ZAMBIAN PERMISNY) IN HOME AFFAIRS MINISTRY. UNHCR OFFICE REP HAS VISITED GROUP AND OFFICE IS PROVIDING SUPPLEMENTARY ASSISTANCE TO MEHEBA TO FACILITATE RESETTLEMENT.

2. ACCORDING TO NAMIBIANS SENT TO MEHEBA TOTAL NUMBERS AT MBROMA WERE IN NEIGHBOURHOOD OF 1200. ACCORDING TO ZAMBIAN GOVT (SUBSTANTIATED BY MEHEBA GROUP) SOME 300-400 DETAINEES HAVE BEEN QUOTE RE-EDUCATED UNQUOTE AND REINTEGRATED INTO SWAPO. REMAINDER IE APPROX 600 ARE UNDERGOING QUOTE REHABILITATION UNQUOTE WITH A VIEW TO REINTEGRATING INTO SWAPO.

3. THUS ZAMBIANS COULD MAKE CLAIM AS REQUIRED THAT THERE ARE NO/NO LONGER ANY SWAPO DISSIDENTS QUOTE IN DETENTION UNQUOTE. OPDAHL WAS NOT/NOT AWARE OF SWAPO'S ROLE OR POSITION WITH RESPECT TO THESE DEVELOPMENTS. IN HIS VIEW, HOWEVER, IF IT WAS POSSIBLE FOR THE 200 TO OPT FOR QUOTE REFUGEE UNQUOTE STATUS AND RESETTLEMENT AT MEHEBA THEN
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IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE FOR THE OTHERS TO DO LIKEWISE. QUESTION REMAINS HOWEVER WHETHER GROUP OF 200 WILL BE ABLE TO ESTABLISH THEMSELVES AT MEHEBA OR WHETHER THERE WILL BE SUBSEQUENT PRESSURE FOR AN ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENT EG RETURN TO NAMIBIA WHICH FOR MOMENT ZAMBIANS (SWAPO) ARE UNLIKELY TO ALLOW.

4. RELATED QUESTION OF COURSE IS SITUATION OF SWAPO DISSIDENTS IN TANZANIA. DETAINEES THERE (ESPECIALLY SHIPANGA) ARE GREATER THREAT TO SWAPO LEADERSHIP AND ABOVE TYPE ARRANGEMENTS MUCH LESS FEASIBLE. MOORE.

END QUOTE.

EMBASSY LUSAKA COMMEPO ON ABOVE MESSAGE:

DESPITE THE RECLASSIFICATION OF 200 MBROMA DETAINEES AS REFUGEES (UNDOUBTEDLY AN IMPROVEMENT) IT WOULD APPEAR THAT AS LONG AS 600 ARE STILL BEING DETAINED FOR "REHABILITATION"

SWAPO CAN STILTSBE ACCUSED OF HOLDING POLITICAL PRISONERS.
WE DOUBT THAT THE EXPLANATION ADVANCED BY THE GRZ AND "REFUGEE"
SWAPO DISSIDENTS FOR THE 300-400 DECLINE IN THE MBROMA CAMP
POPULATION TELLS THE WHOLE STORY. AS HAS BEEN REPORTED PREVIOUSLY
(LUSAKA 0940), SOME HAD ESCAPED THE CAMP, A FEW REPORTEDLY
HAD BEEN SHOT AND SOME HAD DIED DUE TO CONDITIONS IN THE CAMP.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INFORMATION CONTROL, DISSIDENT FACTIONS, LIBERATION FRONTS, LIVING CONDITIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Jun-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977LUSAKA01619
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770206-0117
Format: TEL
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770674/aaaacmtu.tel
Line Count: 123
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Litigation History:
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Message ID: 592e1782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2216325
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAMIBIA: CONDITION OF SWAPO DISSIDENTS IN ZAMBIA ACTION ADDRESSEES ARE ASKED TO PASS THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE FROM THE CANADIAN HIGH COMMISSION LUSAKA TO CANADI
TAGS: SREF, ZA, WA, CA, SWAPO
To: STATE CAPE TOWN
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/592e1782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009